# Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: August – October 2018  Issue date: 19.07.18

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/ public/ weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1st August 2018.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

**SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:**

For August, and August-September-October as a whole, below-average precipitation is more likely than above-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for August-September-October will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 25% and 30% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is 10% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

**CONTEXT:**

Precipitation during the late summer and early autumn period is generally more showery and localised in nature. This often leads to more regional variability. At this time of year, the predictability of UK precipitation is lower than in winter because there are generally fewer large-scale global factors that influence weather patterns significantly across Northern Europe.
For both August and August-September-October, there is good agreement between the Met Office long-range prediction system and systems from other prediction centres. These show an increased likelihood of higher-than-usual pressure close to the UK, suggesting a reduction in the chances of Atlantic depressions moving across the UK. Consistent with this, the likelihood of below-average precipitation is moderately greater than the likelihood of above-average precipitation (see graphs of figure P2). This implies an increased chance that the impacts from the very dry weather being felt in some parts of the UK could be extended.

Fig P1

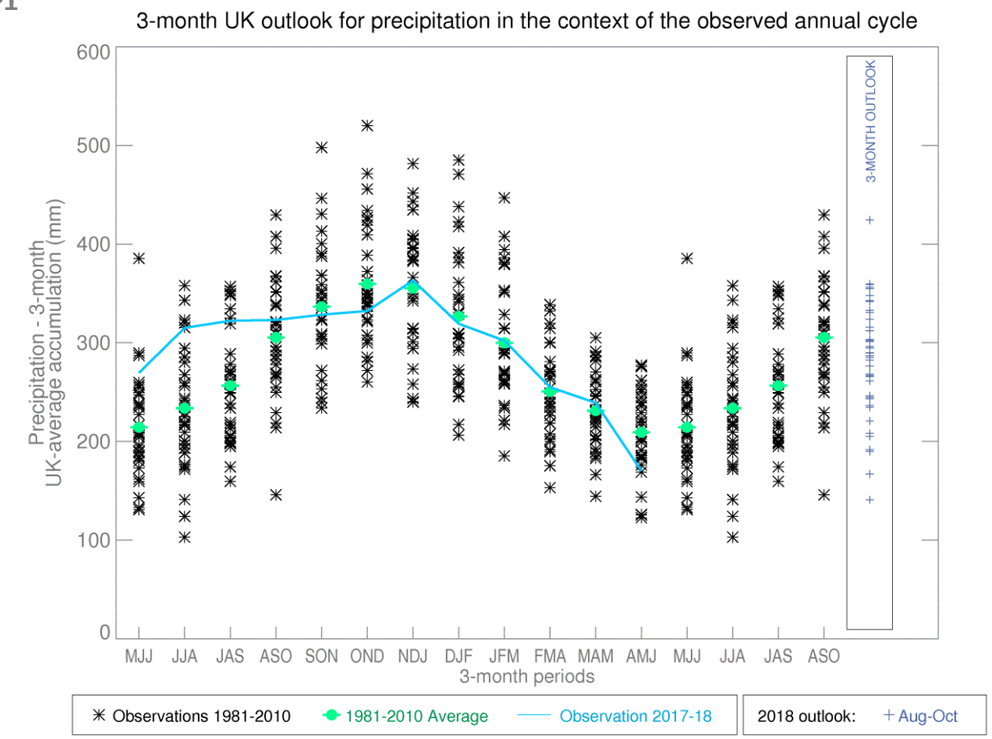



Fig P2

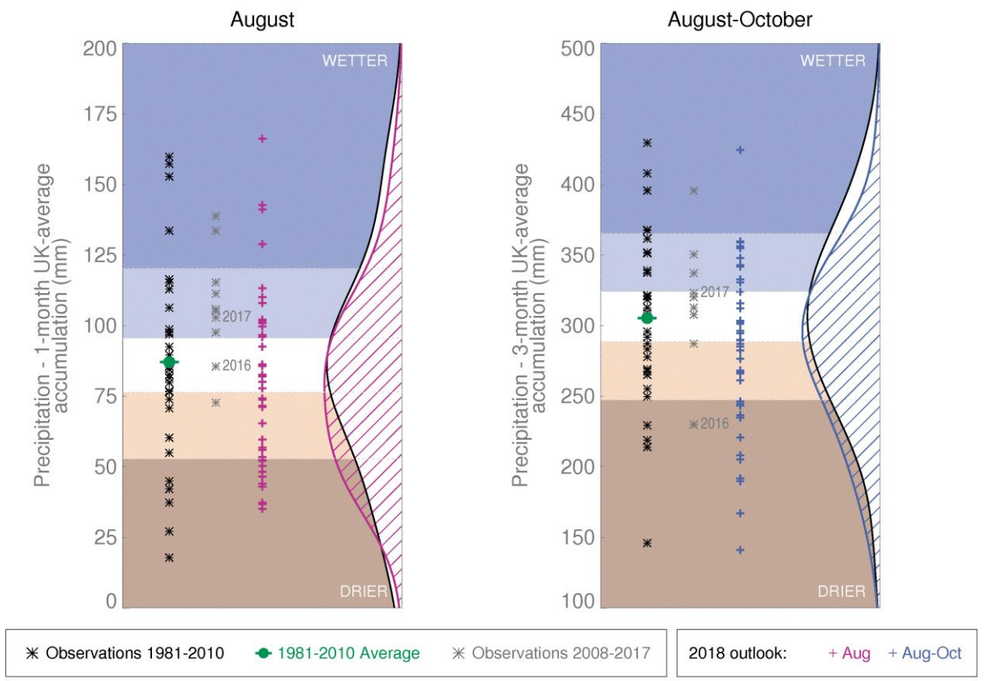
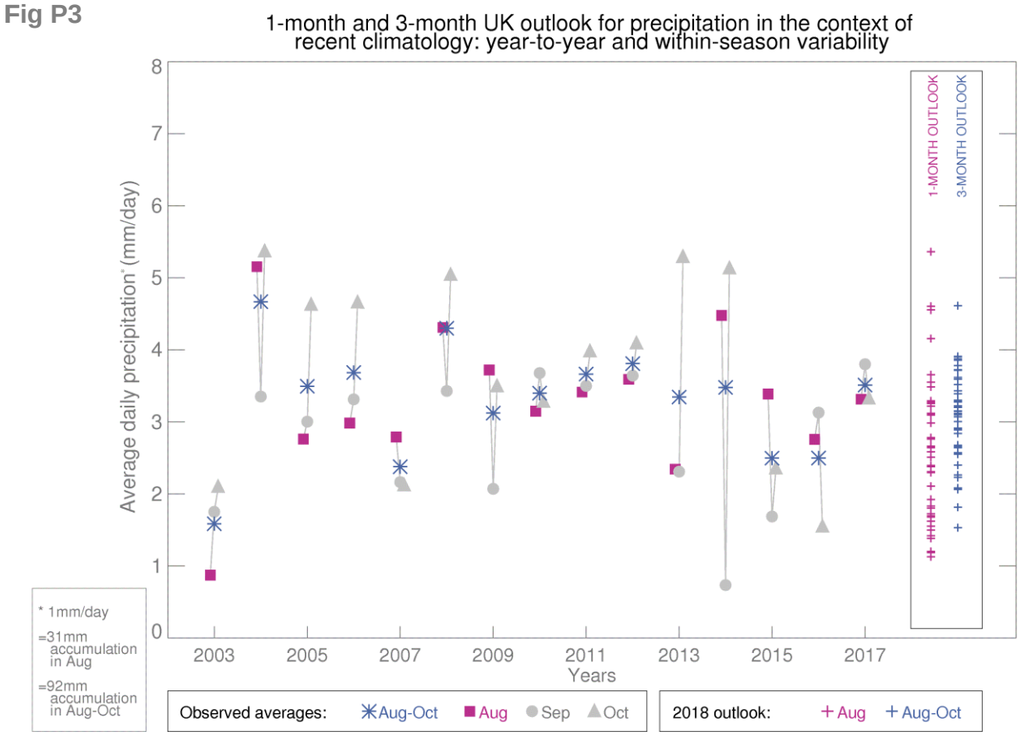



Fig P3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average daily precipitation* (mm/day)
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
* 1mm/day =31mm accumulation in Aug =92mm accumulation in Aug-Oct
Years
Observed averages: Aug-Oct Aug Sep Oct
2018 outlook: + Aug + Aug-Oct

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.